

Message from BPCA Board Acting Chair Martha Gallo – Summer 2023

Dear Neighbors,

Summer is my favorite time of year in Battery Park City. Our gardens are in full bloom, the parks are bustling with local families and visitors from all over, and some of our grandest programming, like the River & Blues series wrapping up this Thursday in Rockefeller Park, brings everyone together to enjoy our public spaces together as one community.

You may have seen the news that the Authority's President & C.E.O., B.J. Jones, has accepted a position in the Mayor's Office as the Executive Director of "New" New York. We thank B.J. for his tireless service to our community and congratulate him on his new role in Mayor Adams' administration — a tribute both to his success and the importance of our community's role as a citywide leader and innovator. Over the months ahead, our Board will conduct a search for a successor befitting our organization's significant and urgent agenda.



In the meantime, our team remains hard at work executing on our vision. In the south part of our neighborhood, construction continues apace on the South Battery Park City Resiliency Project, which is expected to conclude in less than two years' time. I urge you to visit our website (bpca.ny.gov/sbpcrp) to view biweekly construction updates and keep abreast of our progress, and to stay tuned for further discussions on the future Wagner Park Pavilion, which will provide opportunities for additional community uses, including dining, in our beautiful new park.

Along the balance of our waterfront, design continues on the North/West Battery Park City Resiliency Project. I was delighted to see so many of you at the public sessions we held last month to review the 30% designs for the project, and hope that all of you will review the materials, including a PowerPoint presentation, a video of those public sessions, and a [fly-through animation](#) of the project based on the designs as presented. BPCA has extended the comment period for these materials into September (visit bpca.ny.gov/nwbpcr to provide comments). Of course, there will be even more opportunities to weigh in as designs develop in the months ahead.

Another item of community concern, I know, is that of housing stability and predictability. BPCA remains willing to negotiate in good faith with individual condominium boards regarding potential amendments to the rent schedules in their ground leases — including with the number of condominium boards that have already reached out to the Authority directly. Those discussions are ongoing. Regarding affordability concerns, we are moving forward with efforts to develop a program to provide relief from ground rent increases to those Battery Park City homeowners with a demonstrated need. This program is intended to complement recent legislation signed by Governor Hochul and sponsored by Senator Kavanagh and Assembly Member Fall to expand Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption and Disabled Homeowners' Exemption tax relief programs to low-income senior and disabled homeowners.

Battery Park City remains the most desirable and forward-looking community in our city, and our Board and staff remains focused on delivering an inclusive community, a safe and climate-resilient space, vibrant public space, and leadership for the future — for all of us. Our work continues.

See you on the Esplanade,

Martha Gallo

